

competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which they “testify” before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Independent studies show that students in the We the People program display a greater political tolerance and commitment to the principles and values of the Constitution and Bill of Rights than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches. With many reports and surveys indicating the lack of civic knowledge and civic participation, I am pleased to support such a valuable program that is producing an enlightened and engaged citizenry.

The names of these outstanding students from Highland High School are:

Aaron A. Adams, Allison J. Anglin, Richard S. Baca, Laura E. Baldwin, Kristy R. Calderon, Daniel Chavez, Danielle N. Easley, Heather L. Goldberg, Gabriel J. Hogan, Peyton K. Holloway, Martha A. Muna, Denise H. Ortiz, Milagro Padilla, Catherine U. Pham, Long Pham, Mark Ridder, Evan D. Root, Whitney A. Sousa, and Ruby R. Watkins.

I also wish to commend the teachers of the class, Bob Coffey and Steve Seth, who are responsible for preparing these young contestants for the national finals. Also worthy of special recognition is Dora Marroquin, the State coordinator, and Patricia Carpeneter, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing the We the People program in my State.

I wish these students much success as they prepare to compete at the We the People national finals and applaud their great achievement.●

#### IN MEMORY OF LEO T. McCARTHY

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to honor the memory of one of California’s great lawmakers and dedicated public servants, former California Lieutenant Governor and State Assembly Speaker Leo T. McCarthy. Leo passed away in San Francisco on February 5, 2007 at the age of 76. He leaves behind a legacy of commitment to California.

Leo was born in Auckland, New Zealand in 1930. When he was 3, his family moved to San Francisco’s Mission District. Leo served in the Korean war, in the intelligence unit of the Strategic Air Command. He studied history at the University of San Francisco, USF, before entering USF law school. Leo began his political career through work on various political campaigns during law school.

Leo was first elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1963, when at the age of 33, he became the youngest supervisor in San Francisco history. One of his enduring legacies is the creation of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. He also protected San Francisco’s precious

open spaces. During this time, he was appointed by then Governor Edmund “Pat” Brown to the Commission on Aging, where he demonstrated his devotion to aging issues which continued throughout his career.

He was elected to the California State Assembly in 1968 and became the powerful Speaker of the Assembly in 1974. He helped bring more openness and efficiency to the legislature. He also promoted gay rights and coastal protection.

Leo served three terms as lieutenant governor from 1983–1995. As lieutenant Governor, he was active with the State Lands Commission and public education through the University of California. Lieutenant Governor McCarthy helped coordinate California’s disaster relief efforts following the Loma Prieta earthquake. As a member of Congress, I was proud to work with Leo on this disaster relief effort. I am so pleased that our paths crossed many times over the years on so many important issues.

Leo retired from politics in 1994. He helped establish the Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good at USF in 2002. The Center “seeks to inspire and equip students for lives and careers of ethical public service and serving others.” The Center speaks volumes about Leo’s lifelong commitment to open government and public service.

Leo McCarthy was a highly respected and beloved political leader in California. My heart goes out to Leo’s family and friends. He will be missed by all who knew him. We take comfort in knowing that future generations will benefit from his spirit, his vision, and his leadership. He is survived by his wife Jackie; 4 children, Sharon, Conna, Adam and Niall; and his 11 grandchildren.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The following message from the President of the United States was transmitted to the Senate by one of his secretaries:

#### REPORT RELATIVE TO THE EXPORT OF ITEMS TO THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—PM 6

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

#### *To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261), I hereby certify that the export to the People’s Republic of China of the following items is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from such exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People’s Republic of China:

Twenty Honeywell model QA 750 accelerometers to be incorporated into railway geometry measurement systems for China’s Ministry of Railways.

Equipment and technology associated with the production and testing of composite components for Boeing commercial aircraft.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 11, 2007.

#### ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT DATED FEBRUARY 2007 WITH THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS FOR 2007—PM 7

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Joint Economic Committee:

#### ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

#### *To the Congress of the United States:*

Economic growth in the United States has been above the historic average and faster than any other major industrialized economy in the world. January was the 41st month of uninterrupted job growth produced by this economy, in an expansion that has thus far added more than 7.4, million new jobs. Unemployment is low, inflation is moderate, and real wages are rising. Our economy is on the move and we can keep it that way continuing to pursue sound economic policy based on free-market principles.

Sound economic policy begins with low taxes. We should work together to spend the taxpayers’ money wisely and to tackle unfunded liabilities inherent in entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. I have laid out a detailed plan in my budget to restrain spending, cut earmarks in half by the end of this session, and balance the budget by 2012 without raising taxes. The tax relief of

the past few years has been a ingredient in growing our economy, and it should be made permanent.

Our growing economy is dynamic. The rise of new technologies, new competition, and new markets abroad is changing how we do business. We need to take action in four key areas to keep America's economy flexible and dynamic.

First, we must break down barriers to trade so our workers can sell more goods and services to the 95 percent of the world's customers who live outside of our borders. Global trade talks like the Doha Round at the World Trade Organization have the potential to level the playing field so we can compete on fair terms in foreign markets, while helping lift millions of people out of poverty around the world.

The only way we can complete the Doha Round and make headway on other trade agreements is to extend Trade Promotion Authority, which is set to expire on July 1st. This authority is essential to completing good trade agreements. The Congress must renew it if we are to improve our competitiveness in the global economy.

Second, we must work to make private health insurance more affordable and to give patients more choices and control over their health care. One of the most promising ways to do this is by reforming the tax code. We must end the unfair bias against individuals who buy insurance on their own. I propose creating a standard deduction for every American who buys health insurance, whether they get it through their jobs or on their own. In a changing economy, we need a health care system that is flexible and consumer-oriented. With this reform, more than 100 million Americans who are now covered by employer-provided insurance will benefit from lower tax bills. Those who now purchase health insurance on their own would save money on their taxes. Millions of others who now have no health insurance at all would find basic private coverage within their reach. My proposal also taps the innovation of States in making basic, affordable insurance available to all by creating Affordable Choices grants to help ensure the poor and the sick have access to private health insurance.

Third, we must continue to diversify our energy supply to benefit our economy, national security, and environment. In my State of the Union Message, I set an ambitious goal of reducing gasoline usage in the United States by 20 percent over the next 10 years. Meeting this goal will require significant changes in supply and demand, but we should let the market decide the best mix of technologies and fuels to most efficiently attain it. On the supply side, I propose a higher and reformed fuel standard that would include renewable and other alternative fuels. We should also allow environmentally friendly exploration of oil and natural gas. On the demand side, I propose enhancing Corporate Average

Fuel Economy standards for cars and extending the current rule for light trucks, so that we can reduce the amount of gasoline that our passenger vehicles consume, and do so in a more efficient way.

Fourth, a strong and vibrant education system is vital to maintaining our Nation's competitive edge in the world and extending economic opportunity to every citizen here at home. Five years ago, we rose above partisan differences to enact the No Child Left Behind Act, preserving local control, raising standards, holding schools accountable for results, and providing more choice. This year, we must reauthorize and strengthen this good law preserving its core principles.

Strong productivity growth underlies much of the good economic news from the past few years and the policies discussed above. Productivity growth helps to increase our standards of living and improve our international competitiveness. To maintain this progress, we must pursue a variety of growth policies, including those contained in the American Competitiveness Initiative and comprehensive immigration reform.

These and other issues are discussed in the 2007 Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers. The Council has prepared this Report to put into broader context the economic issues that underlie my Administration's policy decisions. I commend it to you.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 2007.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the Secretary of the Senate, on today, February 12, 2007, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House had passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 547. An act to facilitate the development of markets for biofuels and Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel fuel through research and development and data collection.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. BYRD) announced that on February 8, 2007, he had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 434. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through July 31, 2007, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-728. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Thomas L. Baptiste, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-729. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Procedure on Rescission Request Procedures" (Rev. Proc. 2007-21) received on February 6, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-730. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Weighted Average Interest Rate Update" (Notice 2007-20) received on February 6, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-731. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Updated Mortality Tables for Determining Current Liability" ((RIN1545-BE72)(TD 9310)) received on February 6, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-732. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Certain Transfers of Stock or Securities by U.S. Persons to Foreign Corporations" ((RIN1545-BG10)(TD 9311)) received on February 6, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-733. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Field Directive on Section 936 Exit Strategies" (Secondary Audit Index Number LMSB-04-0107-002) received on February 6, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-734. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to standards and requirements for royalty relief for marginal properties for oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-735. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plan for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Florida: Emissions Guidelines for Small Municipal Waste Combustion Units" (FRL No. 8276-7) received on February 7, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-736. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Amendments to the Minor New Source Review Program" (FRL No. 8276-3) received on February 7, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-737. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting,